

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An objective lens for an optical pick-up configured for use with optical discs of a first format and a second format, the first format having higher information density than the second format, at least one surface of said objective lens being an aspherical surface, said at least one surface being divided into an effective area and an outer area outside said effective area, said effective area and said outer area being formed such that a predetermined gap is caused between a spherical aberration of a light beam passed through said effective area and a spherical aberration of a light beam passed through said outer area, a diffraction lens structure being formed on said at least one surface within said effective area, said outer area being connected with a base curve which is a macroscopic shape of said at least one surface within said effective area, the light beam passed through said effective area forming a beam spot on a predetermined surface of an optical disc, the light beam passed through said outer area being diffused on the predetermined surface in comparison with the beam spot, said effective area including a common area through which light passes for forming a beam spot on optical discs of either the first format or the second format, and an exclusive area through which light passes for forming a beam spot on optical discs of the first format but not the second format.

2. (Original) The objective lens according to claim 1, said diffraction lens structure including a plurality of concentric annular zones formed on said at least one surface.

3. (Original) The objective lens according to claim 2, wherein an absolute value of said gap is equal to or greater than 10 micrometers.

4. (Original) The objective lens according to claim 3, wherein an absolute value of said gap is approximately 200 micrometers.

5. (Original) The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein said at least one surface in said outer area is a continuous surface having no diffraction lens structure.

6. (Currently Amended) An objective lens for an optical pick-up configured for use with optical discs of a first format and a second format, the first format having higher information density than the second format, at least one surface of said objective lens being an aspherical surface, said at least one surface being divided into an effective area and an outer area outside said effective area, a diffraction lens structure being formed on said at least one surface within said effective area, said outer area being connected with a base curve which is a macroscopic shape of said at least one surface within said effective

area, said effective area and said outer area being formed such that the light beam passed through said effective area forming a beam spot on a predetermined surface of an optical disc, the light beam passed through said outer area being diffused on the predetermined surface, said effective area including a common area through which light passes for forming a beam spot on optical discs of either the first format or the second format, and an exclusive area through which light passes for forming a beam spot on optical discs of the first format but not the second format.

7. (Currently Amended) An objective lens for an optical pick-up configured for use with optical discs of a first format and a second format, the first format having higher information density than the second format, at least one surface of said objective lens comprising an aspherical surface, said at least one surface being divided into an effective area and an outer area outside said effective area, said at least one surface within said effective area comprising a diffraction lens structure, a surface of said outer area having a curve with a macroscopic shape of said at least one surface within said effective area, said effective area and said outer area being configured such that a light beam passing through said effective area forms a beam spot on a predetermined surface of an optical disc, the light beam passing through said outer area being diffused on the predetermined surface, said effective area including a common area through which light passes for forming a

beam spot on optical discs of either the first format or the second format, and an exclusive area through which light passes for forming a beam spot on optical discs of the first format but not the second format.

8. (Previously Presented) The objective lens according to claim 7, said diffraction lens structure comprising a plurality of concentric annular zones formed on said at least one surface.

9. (Previously Presented) The objective lens according to claim 8, said outer area comprising a continuous surface without a diffraction lens structure.

10. (Previously Presented) The objective lens according to claim 7, said outer area being configured such that a predetermined gap is provided between a spherical aberration of the light beam passing through said effective area and a spherical aberration of a light beam passing through said outer area.

11. (Previously Presented) The objective lens according to claim 10, wherein an absolute value of said predetermined gap is at least equal to 10 micrometers.

P21012.A07

12. (Previously Presented) The objective lens according to claim 10, wherein an absolute value of said predetermined gap is approximately 200 micrometers.